



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 1

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Safe Surfing

By Officer Jason Glenn

The Internet is a useful and indispensable resource used for a variety of services. The Internet is utilized to reference information such as airline fares, encyclopedias, news, movie reviews, sports, stock quotes, and weather. Millions of people communicate through email with family, friends, and colleagues around the world. Children use the Internet to "I.M." or instant message their friends, play games, conduct research, email pictures to friends, or to "surf the web."

Technology has allowed children to explore and learn about places, people, and things around the world from the comfort of their own home. Unfortunately, the same advances in computer technology that allow our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and entertainment are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by computer savvy criminals. Seventy-eight percent of children live in homes in which either they or their parents have Internet access. Furthermore, one out of four children who use the Internet has been exposed to sexually explicit material. Children can be easily exposed to pornography or violent content. This information can be accidentally accessed by information searches and can be attached as an image or hyperlink sent to a child in an email or "spam."

The following are some tips for safe surfing for your family:

- Delete emails from unknown senders. Emails can have attachments such as viruses or worms that can be harmful to your computer.
- Talk to children about the dangers of online chat rooms. It is impossible for them to determine whom they are talking to.
- Insist they never provide personal information to anyone online (name, address, school, age, birthday etc.).
- A child's screen name should not have any connection to their real name or their email address.



From The Desk Of Commander David Marshall

dmarshall@scottsdaleaz.gov
480-312-2571

Fall weather means we say good-bye to the hot Arizona summers. We can now enjoy the cool evenings and nights by opening our windows and doors. There is a concern when you leave doors and windows open. This time every year, we see an increase in burglaries of occupied homes while the residents' sleep. The burglar gains entry through these open windows and doors.

If you choose to leave your windows and doors open, take a few minutes to install some inexpensive and easy security features. One of the cheapest and easiest ways is to "pin" your arcadia doors and windows by installing a pin lock on the frame. These pin locks are available through hardware stores for about \$5.00 and require a couple of mounting screws and drilling a hole in the door or window frame for the pin. You can place this hole so that the window or door is only open two or three inches, enough to let in the air but not a person. If this isn't available and your door or window sliding portion is on the interior of the frame, you can use a piece of dowel cut to the correct length. This will allow the same opening when placed in the track and cannot be opened any further without you first removing the dowel.

If you have a security screen door or security grills over your windows, remember one thing for your safety in case of a fire. You will need to have some type of quick release mechanism on these so you can get out quickly in situations where you can't use the door.

Take a few minutes and evaluate what you need to ensure your safety while enjoying your home and this wonderful weather.

Commander David Marshall



Safe Surfing (continued)

- Keep the computer in a shared area instead of their room. This allows for additional supervision.
- Install filters and tracking programs to monitor the websites and chat rooms your child visits.
- Instruct children not to fill out profiles for chat rooms. Profiles are often public information and accessible to anyone.



Be Safe in Cyberspace

Unfortunately, there are threats to your child's safety in cyberspace. The online world, like the rest of society, is made up of a wide array of people. The majority of people who go online are good people with good intentions. However, there are thousands of predators that can communicate with your children. These predators "lurk" in chat rooms and "I.M." programs looking for targets. Predators will use a tactic called "grooming" to build trust and friendships with children. He or she will work for months fostering this relationship often hiding their true identity. The predator will offer gifts and promises to ultimately lure the child to a meeting place. As a general rule, children should never plan to meet anybody in person whom they have met online. Explain that the people they meet online may not be who they say they are. Educate your children about predators in cyberspace and notify local law enforcement if a predator contacts your child.

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online. Agree on a list of rules and post it by the computer. The rules should consist of the amount of time spent online, sites they may and may not visit, and chat room etiquette. Finally, talk to your child and keep the lines of communication open.

If you would like additional information on using the internet safely or for crime prevention tips, please do not hesitate to call me at 480-312-0275 or email me at ksneed@scottsdaleaz.gov.

CRIME TREND

Burglary prevention is a recurring topic at many Neighborhood Watch meetings. Often, we focus on how to better secure our homes when we are away for the evening or on a vacation. The reality is, we need to focus on how to better secure our homes no matter what the circumstances. I can drive down the street and without going too far, immediately notice a garage door that is open when the residents are right inside the house. Here are some tips to consider while you are home:

- Never leave an extra set of house keys in a hiding place by the front door. Even burglars watch movies.
- Always keep the garage door closed and locked, even if you are only going inside the house for a few minutes.
- Never leave the garage door "cracked" open for the family cat to gain access. Burglars may use this opening to gain access to your garage or house.
- Keep all your bushes and trees trimmed to prevent the burglar from concealing his point of entry.
- Install outside lighting to brighten areas around the home. Use motion sensors around doors and windows.
- Use window locks at all times, especially if you have the window cracked open for the cool evening air.
- Use steel security doors and keep them locked if the front door is open for ventilation.
- Activate your security system if you are in for the evening.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Veterans Day Celebration

November 11th, 2005

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

Free- For more information call (480) 312-2312

Arabian Horse Association Fall Festival

November 11-13, 2005

Westworld

For more information call (480) 515-1500